Nathpa Jhakri Power Project

*205 SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Himachal Hydro Power Project Nathpa Jhakri one of the largest in the country is stuck for the last few years and that the World Bank is likely to pull out of the Project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to resume work for the completion of the project to avoid heavy cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The World Bank is providing a loan of US $ 437 million for this project. The World Bank has agreed to extend the closing date for the loan upto 31.12.1998. The World Bank is periodically monitoring the progress of construction activities, and has recognised the substantial progress made in the construction activities, notwithstanding the flash flood of August, 1997.

The completed cost of the project is now estimated at Rs. 7,217 crores, The debt equity ratio is 1:1 and the Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh are providing equity in the ratio of 3:1. The loan component of the project is now estimated at Rs. 3,608 crores, of which World Bank will fund Rs. 1,573 crores and Rs. 1,191 crores will be provided by foreign banks based on agreements executed the balance amount of Rs. 844 crores required to complete the project will be raised either through an additional World Bank loan or through borrowings.

There was a delay in the commencement of project activities. The commencement of project activities was delayed due to the time taken for finalisation and approval of major civil works. During the execution of the project, delays occurred due to unforeseen geological conditions which adversely affected the progress in the construction of the dam and underground works.

There was no stoppage of works at any stage. However, due to the flash flood which occurred in August, 1997, there was a partial disruption for about three months which affected the progress of the dam and tunneling works. The works are now proceeding briskly. The following steps have been taken by the Project Authority to ensure that the project is completed by March, 2002:

(i) Restoration of roads, minor bridges and a major bridge on river Satluj washed off due to flash floods, to enable regular supply of aggregates from the crushing plant of PIWA;

(ii) Replacement of equipments and materials lost in the flash floods of August, 1997;

(iii) Resolving technical problems encountered due to unforeseen geological factors by consulting a Panel of Experts; and

(iv) Close monitoring of works.

ISI Link in Madarsas

*206. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI link in Madarsa boom in border areas" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated May 16, 1998;

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop such institutions to operate on Indo-Pak border; and

(c) whether some arrests have been made in this connection; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a democratic and secular country like India, it is not the State policy to